

NEW WOMAN IN NEW LANDS: AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Part She Is Playing in Remaking Our War-torn World Is Graphically Told by These Voices Speaking From the Newborn Republics in All Parts of the Earth—By Constance Drexel

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JUST what is woman's place today the world around? What is her status in the old nations of Europe where for centuries she has been slowly rising from the slavery of the dark ages? Where does she stand in the new republics of the old world—those nations born of strife that shattered boundary lines and restored lands to their own peoples?

The persons to answer this question best are the women themselves, and here certain representative women, who were asked to give American readers the exact condition of woman in their respective countries, tell their stories.

Among the nations, one, Latvia, formerly a part of the Russian empire, is not even quite certain that she really is a nation, because America has not yet recognized her. Poland has been fighting for her very existence, while Czechoslovakia is a healthy, lusty infant, with both feet securely planted in the center of Europe.

The women who are speaking to you in these articles are the most prominent leaders of the new thought and progress in each of the countries represented.

FIRST meet Madame de Witt Schlumberger, who will speak for France. She is the granddaughter of a prime minister under Louis Philippe and has an estate in Normandy. She married a member of an old Alsatian family years ago, for Madame Schlumberger is now white-haired and near seventy. They had five sons and one daughter. After 1870, when Alsace became a part of Germany, every young man had to do his military training in the German army or leave Alsace never to return. The Schlumberger sons chose the latter, turning their backs on the assured positions in their father's important industries. When the fifth son came of age the family determined they could stand the separation no longer, so they gave up their place in Alsace and established themselves in Paris.

All of the sons were in the late war, one of them was killed, and one, after serving at the front, became attached to the French High Commission in Washington. Another son, an engineer of note, was appointed by the French Government chief engineer of some important mines in Alsace soon after that province was restored to France.

Madame Schlumberger is president of the French Union for Women Suffrage and first vice president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. She speaks English fluently and represents all that is finest in French family, intellectual and political life. She also has a keen sense of humor, which helps her out considerably in her battle for women's votes in France.

Next, meet the Marquesa del Ter, a beautiful woman of Spain, who, however, is not a daughter of Castile, but married into the nobility of that country. Like the queen, whom she resembles, she is English and has the fair hair and complexion of her race. She has a son who is an officer in the Spanish army and is now in Morocco.

I WISH that I might in some small measure convey the wonderful impression made by the women representing British India at the suffrage meeting. They seemed to make of the world such a very small place; they seemed to make the human being stand out as such, with the same instincts, the same necessities, the same ultimate aims, whether that human being were white, yellow or black; whether he were Hindu, Mohammedan, Hebrew or Christian. Only the methods of arriving at those ultimate aims were different. But even those methods could be discussed on common ground, and their very divergence made the possible scheme of human existence so much more interesting than if every one were alike.

We "sisters of a western civilization" had plenty of opportunity of meeting and observing these fascinating, dusky women of a far-off land. The delegation of ten or a dozen Indian women stayed at the Hotel de la Paix, headquarters of the American and British delegations. Conspicuous in their gorgeous fabrics and sparkling jewels—the dress of their native India—these women were constantly engaged in conversation in the hotel lobby, or in the restaurant.

I rather think they looked down upon us, mere children of a western civilization, which seemed so sure that its methods, ideals and its ways of progress were above those of Asia. They never for one instant forgot that they came from Asia, the mother of all races, Asia whose knowledge goes back thousands of years when Europe was yet in chaos, perhaps even uninhabited except by wild beasts.

I had "interviews" with Mrs. Naidu, and with other Indian women, as we met in the hotel, or talked back and forth to the convention meetings, at the other end of Geneva. Their sumptuous draperies—one end of the fabric, usually embroidered in silver or gold, formed a scarf over the head, and a subtle, mysterious perfume floated from their graceful folds, hanging loosely, or folding cape-like around the figure. Of course one cannot imagine such costumes in the grime or rain of western city streets, but in the scintillating sunshine of Geneva, surrounded by the vivid greenish blue of the Lake of Geneva and the roscate whiteness of the Alps rising beyond, those costumes seemed to fit harmoniously.

But in spite of personal conversations, I don't believe one could give a more faithful impression of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu than to present her article below. She made a speech at the congress which was recognized on all sides as the sensation of the meeting.

She is a high-caste Hindu and one of the first of her station to emancipate herself. She is credited with having accomplished a great deal toward conciliating the Hindu and Moslem elements in India. She is a staunch supporter of woman suffrage for India and has appeared before committees of the House of Commons on this subject. A poetess of note, her books of verse have made her a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Great Britain and Ireland, who rose to the greatest heights, and who brought the message of the Far East to the West.

Mrs. Naidu is a handsome woman, who says proudly that she is past forty, but

whose dusky skin is unmarked by time and whose black, softly waved hair has the satia sheen of youth. Her great black eyes seem to see centuries back into the misty past, yet look far ahead in the future. She speaks in beautiful, polished English, her voice round and vibrant.

POLAND is represented by Marie Dolicka. The representative of the Polish Government intended sending to the Geneva convention could not leave Warsaw. And the foreign office sent insistent wires to Berne, directing the Polish minister there to send some one. It so happened that Maria Dolicka had just arrived after a hectic journey from Warsaw to be secretary of the Polish Press Bureau in Switzerland. This position makes her a member of the foreign office staff in its diplomatic service. She hadn't even unpacked her bags and took the next train to Geneva, bringing tidings direct from Poland. She is a little woman, showing the privations of war and of her journey, and is a graduate of the University of Warsaw.

Madame Anna Kenin is another staunch patriot from one of the new nations. And no one is working harder for the recognition of Latvia, comprising less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, than Madame Kenin. Wife of the Latvian minister to Poland, she is serving independently in Latvia's diplomatic service and is connected with the legation in Paris. She was at the Geneva congress as official representative of her government. But her political activities go further back than the present. As early as 1915, in a conference of nationalities struggling for existence, which was held in Lausanne, Madame Kenin made a stirring plea for her nation, once a part of vast Russia. She has also served as representative of her country in Stockholm.

Miss Franteska Plaminkova speaks for Czechoslovakia, the most lusty infant among all the new nations. She is a member of the municipal council of Prague and a close friend of Dr. Alice Masaryk, daughter of the president of Czechoslovakia. When the capital of the new republic tendered a luncheon to visiting American journalists a few months ago, it was Miss Plaminkova who was sent to represent the municipality. She has been a feminist leader in her

operative societies for producers and consumers.

The feminists of France are convinced that only a collaboration between men and women will give back to the country its vitality and power. Therefore, they ask that the inequalities under which French women are suffering shall be removed.

Basis of India's Suffrage Demand

By Mrs. Sarojini Naidu

NOT without a due sense of my great privilege do I venture to present, in briefest outline, some of the reasons on which the women of India base their claim to

You must pardon us this, all the more because Poland, having obtained her own liberty, can now deliver herself to the joy and happiness of bringing this liberty to other nations, younger and more feeble, like the Ukraine and Lithuania, which are oppressed by Russia, as we have been heretofore.

When this end shall have been attained, the war in the east will end by itself, just as it finished in the west at the moment of the deliverance of Poland.

At the moment of Poland's resurrection, the Polish woman presents herself at the electoral urn, the equal of man, a free and happy citizen of a free and happy nation.

The decree of electoral law of the Diet, published in December, 1918, by the Council of Ministers, and signed by the chief of state, Joseph Pilsudski, was based on

is since the very beginning of the organization of the Lett state that women have taken part in the labors of the national council, as well as in the municipal councils.

However, neither in 1918 nor in 1919 could regular elections take place everywhere, because a large part of the territory was invaded, on one side by German armies, on the other side by Bolshevik troops.

It is only at the beginning of this year, the country having definitely rid itself of all its enemies, that elections in proper fashion were held—with universal suffrage, direct and proportional—for officers of municipalities, and for members to the constitutional assembly, which is now sitting at Riga.

Men and women having attained the age of twenty-one years voted equally, and the zeal of women to bring their votes to the

that they have a prospect of being actually elected.

From these elections we gather the following interesting statistics.

The number of women voters was much larger than that of men voters. Of the total number of voters 2,746,641, or 54 per cent, were women and only 2,302,916, or 46 per cent, men. Also the duty of recording their votes was better fulfilled by the women than by the men, 90.4 per cent of men voting as against 92.6 per cent of women. The number of women organized in the ranks of the various parties varies from 20 per cent to 70 per cent. According to private statistics about 12 per cent of those elected were women.

The first elections to Parliament (House of Deputies and Senate) did not take place till the end of April, 1920. Women

Delegates From the Very Ends of the Earth Gathered to Plead for Equal Rights



A group of delegates at Geneva from all parts of the world. At the extreme left, Mrs. Chandraseu, from India; next to her, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who presided at the suffrage congress; to the rear, Mme. Aziz Ferouhr Kibrizli, of Constantinople; in front of Mrs. Catt, Mrs. Edward Gauntlet, of Japan, and at the extreme right, Mrs. H. Tata, of Bombay



The women representing British India at the suffrage meeting made the world seem very small. The children of Asia, the mother of all races, whose knowledge goes back thousands of years beyond the beginning in Europe—they seemed superior to the Europeans at Geneva, and their outlook on life had a breadth of background that was surprising



Frau Adela Schrieber-Krieger



The Marquesa del Ter



Mrs. Franteska Plaminkova



Mme. Anna Kenin



Mme. de Witt Schlumberger

Suffrage Program France Follows

By Mme. de W. Schlumberger

THESE are the things our women are asking of Parliament:

Their political rights in ratification by the Senate of the law voted May 20, 1919, by the Chamber of Deputies according full right of suffrage to women.

Their civil rights in revision of the laws which establish the inferiority of the married woman, as follows:

Suppression of the legal incapacity of the married woman, free disposition of her person and of her property.

Right of the married woman to preserve her own nationality.

Equalizing the rights of the father between mother and father, and modification of the father's right of correction.

For Protection of the Race

Struggle against alcoholism—Absolute prevention of fabrication and sale of alcohol for drinking purposes; limitation of sale of liquors. Rigorous application of the law against drunkenness. Establishment of foyers in city and country, sales of healthful drinks, etc.

Struggle against immorality—Suppression of regulation of prostitution; reform of customs; protection of minors.

Struggle against tuberculosis—Creation of sanatoria; of dispensaries; treatment for pre-tubercular cases; building of cheap, sanitary houses.

Struggle against depopulation—Protection of children under one year of age; effective application of the law of Theophile Roussel; protection of large families; struggle against infant mortality.

For Protection of the Individual

Similar development for children, both boys and girls—Reform of education toward a more democratic spirit; realization of obligatory schooling; extending age of schooling until fifteen years; creation of obligatory technical education until eighteen years; possibility of accession for all to secondary and superior education; unification of education program for both sexes. Development of physical education.

Protection of Workers, Both Men and Women, Manual and Intellectual

Entrance of women into all careers open to men on same conditions as men.

Rigorous application of the principle "Equal pay for equal work."

Rigorous application of the law concerning work at domicile and 73- minimum wage.

Struggle Against the High Cost of Living

Organization and development of co-

equal franchise in the scheme of reforms to inaugurate responsible self-government for India.

I may observe that my sole title to be regarded as an All-India representative of my sex on a question of such far-reaching importance lies in the fact that I am intimately aware of every shade of orthodox and progressive opinion alike throughout the country, and I am closely associated with all the larger public movements of the day, especially in relation to the vital and delicate problem of the Hindu-Muslim unity.

Wherein has her sex disqualified the Indian woman, or disinherited her, from the rich honors she has earned in equal emulation and comradeship with her brother in every field of intellectual or patriotic endeavor?

In our older universities she has won brilliant distinction in the arts and sciences, medicine, law, and Oriental learning. She holds office in the courts and senates of our younger universities, like the Hindu University of Benares and the Women's University of Poona and the National University, as also in the Bombay University.

She has evinced her creative talent in literature and music; she has proved her consummate tact and resource in administering vast properties and intricate affairs, and demonstrated beyond all question her marvelous capacity to organize and sustain great educational institutions and large philanthropic missions for social service.

Moreover, not only has she participated in the programs of our great periodic national assemblies, but has not infrequently been called upon to guide their deliberations, direct their policies, harmonize their differences, and unite their ideals toward a common goal of self-realization.

In the name of the women of India, I make my appeal to the statesmen of a glorious country whose cherished freedom is broad-based upon a people's will.

Poland's Plea For Equal Vote

By Maria Dolicka

I SPEAK for a country where blood has not ceased to flow. I know that, in certain quarters, Poland is blamed for still fighting.

It is necessary to understand the psychology of a people and of the women, who, thanks to the war, have obtained their liberty—of a people, who, in the nineteenth century, while at the summit of civilization, suffered during that century a shameful slavery, which was only a shame for all of Europe.

Yes, it is true! We waited for that world war, predicted and foretold by our greatest poets and prophets 100 years ago! It is since that time that we have waited, have dreamed of it and, with Mickiewicz, have prayed God for it. It is not surprising that, having waited so long, we have been able to come to the end so quickly.

principles wholly democratic, and gave to women all rights of the elector.

The vote in Poland is universal, equal, secret and proportional. All men and women citizens aged twenty-one years have the right to vote. The participation of women in the voting was very active. Having obtained our political rights, by the same fact we have the right to take part in the administration of our country.

At this moment, there are seven women in the national Diet. They have already obtained a law which prohibits selling of liquor to municipalities. In the municipal councils we have several women; in several localities they are even presidents or vice presidents of municipal councils.

Aside from this great victory for women, a great work is still in front of us to obtain a reform of the civil code concerning married women and mothers. Inasmuch as Polish women do not possess in all domains the same rights as men, they are not ceasing their efforts for further equality.

Women in the German Republic

By Adela Schrieber-Krieger

THE new spirit of democratic Germany for the co-operation of men and women has proved stronger than the old tradition of suspicion between men and women. The results of this co-operation are to be seen everywhere. Women are beginning to realize more and more that the welfare of their children, their kitchens and their homes are bound inextricably with sensible lawmaking.

They realize they must be represented both in inner and in foreign politics, and that it is their duty to try to make things better. Only when each one in Germany does his duty will there be better conditions.

New Republic of Latvia Speaks

By Madame Anna Kenin

LETVIA declared itself an independent state on November 18, 1918, when, thanks to the defeat of Germany and the downfall of Russia, the Lettish people saw itself in a position to declare and to assert its national independence, of which it had been deprived for centuries.

Lettish men, having been under foreign rule and oppression, were almost as far removed from legislative and administrative affairs of the country as were the women. The two sexes had been obliged to work together in national organizations, created either to preserve and to develop the national culture of the people, or to struggle to obtain its independence. Therefore, having thus struggled together, having thus worked and suffered together, at the moment of making a constitution for the Lett state, there never was a question of depriving women of political rights. And it

electoral urns was not less than that of men.

We have five women among 150 deputies, and the proportion of women among municipal officers is 6 per cent. In addition, several women hold important positions in the administration and among the representatives of our diplomatic service.

The women of Latvia had no fear of losing their rights in the Lett state. They know very well that the entire Lett people is penetrated by democratic ideas in the true sense of the word. Nevertheless, they have other worries which they share with the men of their country, and which concern the international situation of Latvia, not yet definitely settled.

Czecho-Slovakia Grants Rights

By Franteska Plaminkova

THE position of women in the Czecho-Slovak republic today in respect of political rights may be regarded as the realization of the boldest hopes of those who have labored for the civic rights of woman and of the hopes of all who have desired to see civic equality forming the basis of the state. Since the war ended women have been placed on complete equality of rights with men; all differences of class and standing have vanished so far as concerns the political rights of citizens of the republic.

There are few places in the whole world where such a radical change has already taken place in the position of women with regard to political rights.

In the sittings of Parliament women were successful exponents of their own views and the views of the parties to which they belonged; they presented bills and frequent successes attended their efforts. To mention only one or two points: Women proposed plans for the betterment of the social conditions of students; for the taking over by the state schools and places of education hitherto conducted by monasteries, convents or other church organizations; for placing girls' middle schools under state control; for converting into state institutions, reorganizing and extending, women's technical and industrial schools and schools of domestic economy; for establishing central refuges for children and children's homes; for introducing day instruction in apprentice schools; for prohibiting evening and Sunday instruction; and for regulating the legal position and the conditions of advancement of women teachers in the national schools.

In June, 1919, the first elections took place—the elections to local and municipal bodies. They took place according to the system of fixed lists of candidates—that is to say, the names of the candidates are arranged in a certain order by the political parties on lists which it is not allowed afterward to alter. The executive committees of the parties have thus the power, according to whether their standpoint toward women is a progressive one or not, to place women's names in such a position on the list

Spain's Part in Big Movement

By the Marquesa del Ter

IT IS only since the last very few years that the women of Spain have understood that they, too, must follow the women's freedom movement and that they must work for their enfranchisement.

I would remind you that we are not newcomers into the era of feminine progress, for you will find in the history of Spain many examples of women who while occupied with their homes and the administration of their property, filled at the same time important functions with the government when the head of the family was away at war.

I would point out to you Francisca de Nebrija and Francisca Medrano, high lights of the Universities of Salamanca and of Alcalá; Beatrice Galindo, Saint Theresa of Jesus, Queen Berengere of Castile, Queen Marie of Molina, who was the glory and support of three successive reigns; Isabelle, the Catholic, who helped discover America, and many others still celebrated for their intelligence and the things they accomplished.

The press is constantly occupying itself with the feminist movement, and we have several newspapers which have offered us their support. Senor Burgos y Maso, former minister of the interior, has included in his program votes for women, and we may hope that our expectations will become reality.

Although the constitution of our country grants certain advantages to women, as, for instance, a right to inheritance, to which she has right at the death of her husband, nevertheless, in many ways, woman finds herself lowered in her dignity as mother, as, for instance, the appointment of a guardian for her children if, having become a widow, she marries again. This is even one of the important reasons why we are asking for a reform of the code civil. In Spain woman cannot dispose of her own personal fortune, open an account in a bank, or administer an inheritance without the consent and authorization of her husband.

We change the guardianship of our parents for that of the husband; therefore, before the law, we always remain minors.

Until the age of majority of his children, a father may dispose of their lives and keep them away entirely from the care of the mother! This fact is all the more to be regretted because it deprives children of maternal care exactly at the age when they are most indispensable.

We have made several requests of the government, without success. I regret to say, one of them—the most important, to my mind—asking adherence of Spain to the convention of The Hague, concerning the marriage of Spanish subjects contracted in foreign territory.

All our women's organizations, without exception, are asking for the vote; the Liberal party and the Republican party are giving their support to this demand. This must be said to their credit, because, if the measure is adopted, the majority of the Conservative party, with the unquestioned support of women, will be increased.